

CROSS-CHANNEL BLERIOT -- There were some 225 variants of Louis Bleriot's XI monoplane which he piloted across the English Channel to France in a history-making flight July 25, 1909. He began building aeroplanes in France in 1906. The model appearing at the Armed Forces Day show in CFB Rockcliffe belongs to Cole Palen, Old Rhinebeck, New York. The National Aeronautical Collection has an unreconstructed model on its premises. The XI is 23 feet 7 inches long; 25 feet, 4 inches in breadth; weighed only 660 lbs with aviator embarked and sometimes exceeded its designed top speed of 45 mph. (CANADIAN FORCES PHOTO)

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